

**From:** [Jordan, William](#)  
**To:** [Mosby, Jackie](#); [Bradbury, Steven](#)  
**Cc:** [Bittleman, Sarah](#); [Keaney, Kevin](#); [Kasai, Jeanne](#); [Arling, Michelle](#); [Frazer, Brian](#); [Overstreet, Anne](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Toxic Free North Carolina - Worker Protection Standards  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2013 2:54:00 PM

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Jackie –

Steve is correct in recalling that Jim Jones has agreed to meet with representatives of one or more farmworker advocacy organizations. As I understand it, Fawn Pattison from Toxic Free North Carolina is coming to town to speak to OMB about the pending rulemaking package that EPA submitted to update the Worker Protection Standard. Ms. Pattison will be bringing several farmworkers to the meeting with Jim. That meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, at 1 PM. I think Ms. Jeanne Economos, another farmworker advocate, may also be attending. Overall, I would expect them to be supportive of the proposed changes, but they may say the changes do not go far enough and have taken too long to happen.

OPP staff pulled together the following information about their organizations and issues.

**Toxic Free North Carolina (Fawn Pattison)**

Toxic Free NC is a non-profit organization that fights pesticide pollution in North Carolina by advocating for common-sense alternatives that protect human health and the environment. Its goal is to get rid of pesticide pollution in water, food and human bodies.

**Farmworker Association of Florida (Jeanne Economos)**

The Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF) represents the interests of farmworkers and rural low-income communities in social, political, workplace, economic, health, and environmental justice issues. FWAF seeks to have farmworkers treated as equals, and not exploited and discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, immigrant status, or socioeconomic status.

We expect both organizations to raise issues related to:

- Acute and chronic pesticide-related incidents, including underreporting and heightened risks of illness from chronic exposure
- Farmworker environmental justice – farmworkers are a vulnerable population, generally low income, have limited access to healthcare, may have more serious impact than other populations if they miss work due to illness, and may not raise safety concerns for fear of retaliation
- Heightened concerns for children's exposure to pesticides, including adolescents handling and applying pesticides directly, children working or entering fields recently treated with pesticides, and children's exposure to pesticides through residues brought home via parents' clothing, shoes, and vehicles
- The need for workers to have access to specific information about the pesticides used

Both Toxic Free North Carolina and the Farmworker Association of Florida support the Safer Farmworkers, Food & Families Campaign (<http://protectfarmworkers.org/>). This campaign includes an online petition effort requesting that EPA update the WPS to provide:

- More complete and regular training on health risks of pesticides; safety measures they can take to protect themselves and their families; their employers' responsibilities to ensure their safety; and their rights as workers. These trainings must be offered more often than the current requirement of every 5 years.
- Timely information (in an accessible format), about the timing, location and hazards of specific pesticides used on the farm where they work.
- Special protections for pesticide handlers.
- Improved enforcement of safety standards at the state level.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Happy New Year,

Bill

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**From:** Mosby, Jackie  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 1:18 PM  
**To:** Bradbury, Steven; Jordan, William  
**Cc:** Bittleman, Sarah  
**Subject:** RE: Toxic Free North Carolina - Worker Protection Standards

Thanks, Jackie

Jacqueline E. Mosby, MPH  
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**From:** Bradbury, Steven  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 1:16 PM  
**To:** Mosby, Jackie; Jordan, William  
**Cc:** Bittleman, Sarah  
**Subject:** Re: Toxic Free North Carolina - Worker Protection Standards

Hi jackie. We can fill you in on the WPS. And Fawn is on the ppdc. They are also visiting with ocspp in that time frame. With leave and out of town family this week I'm a bit tight on time, but bill is in today and tomorrow and maybe able to get you some info early this week.

Steve

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**From:** Mosby, Jackie  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 1:08:31 PM  
**To:** Bradbury, Steven  
**Cc:** Bittleman, Sarah  
**Subject:** Toxic Free North Carolina - Worker Protection Standards

Hi Steve, Toxic Free North Carolina has requested a meeting with me and Matthew Tejada (OEJ) on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January to discuss working protection standards for farm workers. Are you familiar with this group, and are they meeting with OPP?

I am preparing for the meeting, so I welcome your insight. Feel free to call to discuss.  
Thanks, Jackie

Jacqueline E. Mosby, MPH  
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**From:** Fawn Pattison [<mailto:fawn@toxicfreenc.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 2:01 PM  
**To:** Mosby, Jackie; Tejada, Matthew  
**Cc:** Jeannie Economos  
**Subject:** Meeting request: Jan 7-8

Dear Ms. Mosby and Mr. Tejada,

I am writing to request a meeting with you on January 7th to discuss the Worker Protection Standard, on behalf of a team of 4 farmworkers from North Carolina and Florida.

Jeannie Economos of the Farmworker Association of Florida and I will accompany the workers to Washington on Jan 7-8th. They will be meeting with the OMB on the 8th about the Worker Protection Standard, and we would very much like to meet with you as well, in particular to discuss the environmental justice implications of this EPA rulemaking, and its impact on low-income children and youth of color.

Please let me know whether you are available, and I hope to see you in January.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Best,  
Fawn Pattison

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**Fawn Pattison**  
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